

BOURNE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year 1952.

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To the Chairman and Members of
the Bourne Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my report and that of
your Sanitary Inspector for 1952.

A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres	10,103
Population—Registrar General's Figures 1952 ...	4,912
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,544
Rateable Value	£24,480
Sum represented by a id. rate	£94

VITAL STATISTICS.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Births	28	41	69
Deaths	21	20	41
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil
„ „ Measles	„
„ „ Whooping Cough	„
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	„
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Still Births	1	3	4
Deaths of Infants under 1 year 1	—	—	1
„ „ „ „ 4 weeks —	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	1	2
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	3
Coronary disease angina	4	—
Other heart disease	4	9
Other circulatory disease	1	—
Pneumonia	—	2
Bronchitis	2	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	—
All other accidents	—	1

B. HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

The personnel of the Health Services remain the same.

The two Queen's Sisters continue their excellent work.

The Ambulance Service is run smoothly by the County Council; there are stationed in Bourne two Ambulances and a Sitting Car.

The nursing attendants in the daytime are provided by the Red Cross, and their willing work deserves high commendation. The services of another fully trained male attendant is needed to ease the physical burden of their work.

The Health Service is working smoothly, save in the case of the provision of accommodation for the aged, sick and infirm. The difficulty of securing admission for such cases, particularly the women, is as great as ever, and as far as I know, no further accommodation has been provided for them since the Act came into force in 1948, and none is in sight. With an ageing population, the problem gets worse, bedevilled as it is by the Diarchy responsible for the care of the Old People's Homes. It would be better if one Authority only be made responsible for these people.

The Home Help Service is increasing in its usefulness.

It has not been necessary to invoke Section 47 of the National Assistance Act of 1947.

The Bourne Chest Hospital with its new Sewage Works, with its new up-to-date X-Ray Unit and the establishment of a Chest Clinic there, is now one of the most up to date in the region and is a boon to the patients and the General Practitioners in the Area.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. HOUSING.

In 1952—6 private houses were completed and
30 Council Houses.

The pattern of the new Bourne begins to take place, and although many more houses are needed, your Officers can now look forward to the time when a start can be made with pulling down houses which should be condemned, when their occupiers are rehoused.

Unfortunately owing to the Rent Restriction Acts, much property is falling into bad disrepair, and if the position is not altered these houses will become unrepairable at a reasonable cost; and what was a reasonable cost before the war must now be increased four fold at least.

WATER.

The town water is chlorinated as a routine.

CONVERSIONS OF MIDDEN OR PAN CLOSETS TO WATER CLOSETS.

Number converted, 9.

One of the difficulties encountered in securing conversions is that of finding a builder, to do the work.

Your Sanitary Officers are not pressing the conversion of such closets when they hope to secure Clearance Areas in the near future of some of the properties concerned.

VERMIN INFESTATION.

Cases dealt with, 1.

D. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All meat is inspected at the Government Slaughterhouse in conjunction with the South Kesteven Rural District Council.

The whole question of Slaughterhouses is being reviewed at Government level. I hope the gestation period will not be long, and that Bourne, ideally situated as a geographical and live stock centre of production, with important waste products works and processing plant, adjoining its Slaughterhouse, with its Slaughterer's skill a byword for generations, will be selected as one of the Slaughterhouses to be.

Ice Cream Samples are taken regularly.

The Swimming Baths are under close supervision, and the monthly analyses of water have been highly satisfactory. The improvement of the Sanitary Conveniences is in hand.

E. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No epidemics occurred during 1952.

The Ministry of Health has emphasized to the Regional Hospital Board the need for their Chest Physicians and Sanatoria Medical Officers to keep the District Medical Officer of Health informed as to the ingress and egress of Tuberculous patients from their institution.

The past twenty years has seen a rapid evolution in the incidence character and morbidity of Infectious Disease.

Scarlet Fever has changed its character, not only is it much milder, but it is not so frequent and it is only rarely that hospitalisation is needed for patients so infected.

Typhoid and Diphtheria Fevers but rarely occur. Diphtheria has almost been stamped under, but it is not stamped out. If people get slack about having their children immunised it will emerge anew and take its toll again.

Tuberculosis is still a menace. Although the new drugs have altered its picture, although the old galloping consumption is rarely seen, although great advances in chest surgery have rescued cases and restored them to life, it is early to say that the disease is conquered. It does not kill as it used to, it is held at bay but the survivor from its onslaught has to hold it at bay for the rest of their life.

Not one of the therapeutic and surgical advances of this era have altered the basic factor, that the sum of health is the degree of the body's resistance to the degree of the virulence of the disease.

To promote good resistance, you need good stock, good food, good housing, that is the aim of Sociological and Environmental Medicine, which your Public Health Officials endeavour to promote, in season and out of season.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases and Mortality in 1952:—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I—2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2—5	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5—I5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I5—25	I	I	-	-	-	-	-	-
25—35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35—45	I	I	-	-	-	-	-	-
45—55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55—65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

F. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Paratyphoid Fever
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1—2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2—3	-	-	1	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
3—4	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	-
4—5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
5—10	-	-	1	-	5	5	-	-	8	-	-	-
10—15	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
15—20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20—35	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35—45	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
45—65	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	12	-	8	15	8	-	12	-	-	-
Admitted into Hospital	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

In conclusion I wish to thank all my fellow officers for their unfailing help and support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. GALLETLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1952.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my report for 1952.

A. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Housing.—Thirty Houses were completed during the year, and the main consideration in allocation being overcrowding. Six private houses were completed.

Consideration was not given to the service of any Demolition Orders under the provisions of the Housing Acts during this year.

Sewage Disposal and Drainage. — The partial treatment of sewage and the consequent pollution of the watercourse is yet a still graver concern. Thirty-six further buildings apart from general improvements of amenities to existing houses have been added during the year. One can only hope that next year will show some definite progress regarding this very serious nuisance.

Nine vault closets have been converted to the water carriage system.

Refuse Collection.—Refuse collection is carried out weekly in the town area, once a fortnight at Dyke and Cawthorpe, and monthly in the North Fen Area. A voluntary trade collection scheme is carried out, on payment of costs.

Rodent Control. — Periodical treatment of sewers, sewage works and the refuse tip are carried out. Complaints are investigated and the necessary steps are carried out by the Rodent Operator.

A total of 360 premises were visited on complaint and survey. 31 dwellinghouses and eight business premises were treated.

Disinfestation.—One verminous house was dealt with.

Public Health and Housing Acts.—The following complaints were dealt with:—

	No. of Complaints	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices
Offensive watercourses ...	4	13	—
Conversion of vault closets ...	2	12	3
Housing defects ...	7	7	2
Keeping of animals, poultry, etc.	5	5	—
Insufficient water supply ...	4	4	4
Caravans and tents ...	2	2	2
Defective drainage ...	5	5	—
Other matters ...	14	12	—

B. INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Meat Inspection.—Animals intended for food are slaughtered at the Ministry of Food's Central Slaughterhouse. Ante-mortem inspection was carried out in some cases but post-mortem inspection was carried out to all carcasses with the co-operation of the South Kesteven Rural District Council.

A total number of 4,519 animals were inspected during the year made up as follows:—

Bulls.	Bullocks.	Cows.	Heifers.	Calves.
13	318	282	264	377
	Sheep and Lambs.		Pigs.	
	2,455		810	

Total weight of meat condemned:—

27 tons, 6 cwts., 3 qr., 25 lbs.

The following table gives details of carcasses inspected and condemned and the percentages of the total number of carcasses inspected which were found to be affected with (1) diseases other than tuberculosis, (2) tuberculosis.

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	...	595	282	377	2455	810

All diseases except Tuberculosis:

(a) Whole carcasses condemned	...	10	15	50	35	32
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	89	32	4	77	105

Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	16.64%	16.67%	14.32%	4.56%	16.91%
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	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Tuberculosis only :					
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ...	13	14	1	—	2
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	87	122	—	—	102
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	16.81%	48.23%	0.27%	—	12.84%

Meat Inspection (Horses). — Horses are slaughtered at a Licensed Slaughterhouse in the town. Since August of this year, when the notification and inspection of horse meat became law, 256 horses have been inspected and the following weight of meat and offal condemned:—

Meat	Offal
7 cwts. 6 lbs.	4 cwts. 20 lbs.

Biological Milk Sampling. — Two samples of raw milk were taken and submitted for Biological Examination. One sample on examination showed definite evidence of Tuberculosis and the necessary action was taken for the appropriate treatment of the milk.

Food Inspection. — The following visits were made to food premises:—

Butchers' Shops ...	14	Other Premises ...	10
Restaurants ...	10	Ice Cream Premises ...	19
Bakehouses ...	6		

One Notice was served with respect to cleansing of premises. The necessary works were carried out.

The following unsound food was examined in shops, etc., and surrendered voluntarily:—

Tinned Tomatoes, 349 lbs.
 Creamex, 150 lbs.
 Tinned Milk, 128 lbs.
 Meat, 105 lbs.
 Tinned Fruit, 84 lbs.
 Tinned Meat, 58 lbs.
 Tinned Vegetables, 21 lbs.
 Other Foods, 59 lbs.

Sale of Ice Cream.—Ice Cream is manufactured and sold from one premises only, and sold from 12 other premises.

The premises have been kept under observation; 19 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for examination. The final results were satisfactory.

C. FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

The following tables shows the inspections made:—

	No. on Register	Inspections	Informal Notices
(1) Factories without Mechanical Power Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforceable by Local Authority	11	6	2
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforceable by the Local Authority. (Factories with Mechanical Power)	46	24	2
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforceable	2	—	—
	59	30	4

The defects found referred to defective or lack of cleanliness to Sanitary Conveniences.

In reviewing the year steady improvement has been maintained in the general interest of hygiene.

It is regrettable to have to call once again that little progress has been made regarding the Sewage Works. It can be only hoped that the Council's proposals for this project will receive expeditious consideration when they reach the Ministry of Health.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking my assistant Mr. G. Batterham and typist Miss F. Wade for their help during the year and to record my appreciation of the assistance afforded me by my fellow officers.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. HOWARD,

Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer.

